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Ministry of Advanced Education

NEW FINE ARTS PROGRAM APPROVED FOR UBC OKANAGAN

KELOWNA – A new master of fine arts degree in interdisciplinary studies will be offered at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus, opening up new opportunities for students pursuing artistic studies, Okanagan-Vernon MLA Tom Christensen announced today.

"The Okanagan campus of UBC is quickly becoming an important centre of learning," said Christensen. "The university continues to grow and provide more options for students to complete their studies close to home."

The degree program, the first of its kind at the Okanagan campus, will require students to use artistic practices with other academic disciplines to complete their thesis. This includes using a combination of written and creative work, and creating a teamwork-based environment.

"This program is an example of how the Province is gearing our education programs to students' specific needs and preparing them for entering the workforce," Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell said. "With the addition of this degree, we are giving students the choice and flexibility to study programs that interest them, while providing them with the tools they need to be successful in our vibrant economy."

New degrees at public and private post-secondary institutions in the province must meet the established criteria under B.C.'s degree quality assessment process, including a 30-day peer-reviewed period for degrees proposed by public post-secondary institutions, and be approved by the Minister of Advanced Education.

"This new program is incredibly versatile," said UBC president Stephen Toope. "It offers students the ability to pursue a traditional MFA – art history and theory and studio art – or they can choose to enrich their studio practice with influences from many areas, moving across disciplinary boundaries, working with faculty with a diverse range of approaches and areas of expertise."

Since 2003, more than 100 undergraduate and graduate degrees have been approved. B.C. is improving its competitiveness and productivity through education and skills training, part of government's Pacific Leadership Agenda.

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